



# Memorandum

**TO:** MAYOR REED

**FROM:** Councilmember Sam Liccardo  
Councilmember Pierluigi Oliverio  
Councilmember Forrest Williams  
Councilmember Nancy Pyle

**SUBJECT:** BUDGET DOCUMENT

**DATE:** May 19, 2008

Approved

Date 5-19-08

*[Signatures: Sam Liccardo, Nancy Pyle, Forrest Williams]*

## RECOMMENDATION

That the following recommendation be enacted:

One-time purchase of ten radar speed display trailers and subsequent deployment in San Jose's neighborhoods.

## BACKGROUND

### **City-Council Initiated Neighborhood Improvement Reserve Fund**

Program/Project Title: Radar Speed Display Trailers for Neighborhoods

Amount of City Funding Required: \$120,000

Fund Type : City Council Initiated Neighborhood Improvement Reserve  
Agency Board Special Improvement Fund

### **Anticipated Outcomes:**

As indicated by Strong Neighborhood Initiative's (SNI) Top 10 Action Agendas, discussions at community meetings, and Councilmember Oliverio's recent study and outreach regarding the City's traffic calming policy, traffic calming is extremely important to our neighborhoods. Despite the great time and resources being allotted to advance traffic calming, we have not been able to meet the demands of our neighborhoods.

The typical traffic calming installments (including chokers, islands, medians, and circles) that permanently and physically alter traffic flow have a number of weaknesses that have hampered our efforts: they require expensive and time-intensive studies, they involve tremendous planning and assessments by various City

Departments, and they usually only affect one intersection or street. Perhaps most importantly permanent installations are only viable when complying with Traffic Calming Policy 5-6.

Radar speed trailers do not involve many of the obstacles confronting permanent installations. Trailers are temporal and mobile, thus not subject to the mercy of Policy 5-6, studies, and the consequence of permanent installments. Trailers are the flexible alternative and DOT officials report they have substantial calming impact on traffic speeds.

The addition of ten radar speed trailers will save the City money where trailers are found to be suitable replacements for permanent installations. Also, should permanent installations be found to have more negative than positive consequences in the future, the costs will be substantial to remove them. A trailer can advance traffic calming efforts in multiple areas per year where as a permanent installation will address one area. Trailers are a cost-effective and flexible alternative.

### **Funding Source**

Program/Project Title: Radar Speed Display Trailers for Neighborhoods

Amount of City Funding Change: One Time - \$120,000

Fund Type :

City Council Initiated Neighborhood Improvement Reserve (\$60,000)

Agency Board Special Improvement Fund (\$60,000)

Department or Organization: Department of Transportation, San Jose Police Department

Department or Organization Contact

Name: Laura Wells – Department of Transportation, Jeff Smith – San Jose Police Department

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This change is:

  X   One-time             Ongoing

The City Service Area to which the change best relates:

- ☐ Community and Economic Development Services
- ☐ Environmental and Utility Services
- ☐ Neighborhood Services
- ☒ Public Safety
- ☒ Transportation and Aviation Services
- ☐ Strategic Support